

an eject mechanism having an eject member, the eject member being adapted to move in a card insertion direction as the card is inserted into the connector during a card insertion operation and to move in a card eject direction in response to a card eject operation to eject the card;

an elastic locking piece having a locking portion to engage in the recess of the card and a stationary portion fixed in the eject member; and

A2-B1  
cont.

a locking piece guide means for guiding the elastic locking piece during the card eject operation and the card insertion operation wherein the locking piece guide means causes the elastic locking piece to become elastically deformed during the card eject operation to move the locking portion away from the recess of the card and wherein the locking piece guide means causes the elastic locking piece to become released from the elastic deformation during the card insertion operation thereby causing the elastic locking piece to move toward the card by an elastic recovery force to engage the locking portion in the recess of the card.

3. (Amended) A card connector according to claim 2, wherein:

A3

the locking piece guide means guides the protruding portion of the elastic locking piece thereby causing the locking portion to move away from the side surface of the card and towards a side wall portion of the connector housing during the card eject operation and to move toward the side surface of the card during the card insertion operation causing the locking portion to press against the side surface of the card;

the protruding portion of the elastic locking piece projects upwardly or downwardly of the connector housing; and

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the tapered surface of the guide wall is inclined with respect to the side surface of the inserted card.

4. (Amended) A card connector according to claim 2, wherein:

locking piece guide means guides the protruding portion of the elastic locking piece thereby causing the locking portion to move vertically away from the bottom or top surface of the card during the card eject operation and to move toward the bottom or top surface of the card during the card insertion operation causing the locking portion to press against the bottom or top surface of the card;

the protruding portion of the elastic locking piece projects widthways of the connector housing; and

the tapered surface of the guide wall is inclined with respect to the bottom surface of the inserted card.

5. (Amended) A card connector according to claim 1, wherein the locking piece guide means is a member projecting from the connector housing to engage a part of the elastic locking piece thereby causing the locking portion to move away from the side surface of the card and towards a side wall portion of the connector housing during the card eject operation and to move toward the side surface of the card during the card insertion operation.

8. (Amended) A card connector according to any one of claims 2 to 4, wherein the connector housing is formed with a space that prevents the protruding portion from interfering with other members when a second card without the recess is inserted.

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